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Identical letters dated 26 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to transmit to you the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the events of 24 August 2016. In the morning of that day, Turkish tanks and armoured vehicles, under air cover provided by aircraft of the international coalition led by Washington, crossed the Syrian border and headed for the city of Jarabulus.

> "The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that any party combating terrorism in Syrian territory must do so in complete coordination with the Syrian Government and the Syrian Arab Army, which has been engaged in this struggle for more than five years. The Syrian Arab Republic condemns this blatant violation of its sovereignty by Turkey and stresses that countering terrorism does not mean expelling Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and replacing it with other terrorist organizations that are directly supported by Turkey.
>
> What is occurring in Jarabulus is not counter-terrorism, as Turkey claims, but rather the substitution of one form of terrorism for another. Syria demands that this aggression be brought to an end and calls on the United Nations to implement its resolutions that concern, in particular, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. It also demands that Turkey and the American coalition abide by international resolutions, particularly those that relate to the closing of borders and addressing the roots of terrorism."

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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